# **EXHIBIT 14**

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

| In re:                                     | S<br>S |                                   |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|
| ALEXANDER E. JONES                         | \$     | CASE NO. 22-60043<br>SDTX (Lopez) |
| Debtor.                                    | Š      | ( 1 /                             |
| NEIL HESLIN and SCARLETT LEWIS             | S      |                                   |
| Plaintiffs                                 | S<br>S |                                   |
| VS.  | S      | ADVERSARY NO                      |
| ALEX E. JONES and FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS, LLC | Š      |                                   |
| Defendants                                 | S      |                                   |

#### **NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

# TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Christopher R. Murray, the chapter 7 trustee ("<u>Trustee</u>") appointed for the bankruptcy estate of Alexander E. Jones ("<u>Estate</u>"), files this Notice of Removal of the state court action styled *Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis v. Alex E. Jones and Free Speech Systems, LLC,* Cause No. D-1-GN-18-001835, pending in the 261<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas (the "<u>State Court Action</u>").

#### I. <u>Procedural Background and Nature of Suit</u>

- 1. On April 16, 2018, Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis ("<u>Plaintiffs</u>") filed their Original Petition against Alex E. Jones and Free Speech Systems, LLC ("<u>Defendants</u>"), initiating the State Court Action.
- 2. On December 2, 2022, Alexander E. Jones ("Debtor") filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code ("Bankruptcy Code") [Dkt. 1], commencing the bankruptcy case captioned *In re Alexander E. Jones*, Case No. 22-33553, pending Page 1

before the United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas, Houston Division (Hon. Christopher M. Lopez, presiding) ("Jones Bankruptcy Case").

- 3. On June 14, 2024 ("Conversion Date"), the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Converting Debtor's Chapter 11 Case to a Case Under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code ("Conversion Order")[Dkt. 708].
- 4. On June 14, 2024, the Trustee was appointed to serve as the chapter 7 trustee in the Jones Bankruptcy Case. [Dkt. 709].
- 5. The Debtor's 100% membership interest in Free Speech Systems, LLC ("FSS"), including rights under the membership agreement of FSS, constitutes non-exempt property under applicable non-bankruptcy law and is property of the Estate in the Jones Bankruptcy Case pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §541.
- 6. On July 29, 2022, FSS filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 Subchapter V of the Bankruptcy Code, initiating Case No. 22-60043 pending before the United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas, Houston Division (Hon. Christopher M. Lopez, presiding)(the "FSS Bankruptcy Case") [Dkt. 1].
- 7. On June 21, 2024, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Dismissing Case ("<u>Dismissal Order</u>")[Dkt. 956], effectuating a dismissal of the FSS Bankruptcy Case, subject to certain conditions outlined in the Dismissal Order and the retention of certain related matters.
- 8. Also on June 21, 2024, in the State Court Action, Plaintiffs' filed Plaintiffs' Application for Turnover Order.
- 9. Also on June 21, 2024, in the "A" case related to the State Court Action, Plaintiffs filed Plaintiffs' Application for Post-Judgment Writ of Garnishment. With respect to the Plaintiff's Application for Post-Judgment Writ of Garnishment, the garnishee is Cadence Bank.

#### II. Basis for Removal

- 10. This Notice of Removal is filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1452, Bankruptcy Rule 9027, and Local Bankruptcy Rule 9027.
- 11. The State Court Action was initiated prior to the commencement of the Jones Bankruptcy Case. This Notice of Removal has been timely filed pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2).
- 12. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409. The Trustee intends to file a separate motion to transfer this matter to the United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Texas, which has jurisdiction over the Jones Bankruptcy Case as well as certain matters in the FSS Bankruptcy Case.
- 13. Cases subject to jurisdiction are removable under the authority of 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a) ("A party may remove any claim or cause of action...to the district court for the district where such civil action is pending, if such district court has jurisdiction of such claim or cause of action under section 1334 of this title"). The State Court Action is a civil action, other than a proceeding before the United States Tax Court. The State Court Action is not a civil action by a government unit to enforce such government unit's police or regulatory power.
- 14. This Court has jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) (federal district courts have "original jurisdiction of all civil proceedings...arising in or related to cases under title 11"). The State Court Action "arises in" or, alternatively, is "related to" a Title 11 case, *i.e.* the Jones Bankruptcy Case and the FSS Bankruptcy Case. In this circuit, "related to" proceedings include any case whose outcome "could *conceivably* have any effect on the administration of the estate." *In re Wood*, 825 F.2d 90, 93 (5th Cir. 1987) (emphasis added); *In re Bandoin*, 981 F.2d 736, 740 (5th Cir. 1993).

15. The outcome of the State Court Action will have a direct impact on property of the Estate in the Jones Bankruptcy Case as well as administration the Estate. Additionally, the outcome of the State Court Action will have a direct impact on those matters retained by the Bankruptcy Court in the FSS Bankruptcy Case under the Dismissal Order. Accordingly, the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) are satisfied and removal is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1452(a).

#### III. Core or Non-Core Bankruptcy Jurisdiction

- 16. This action involves the administration of the Debtor's estate and is a proceeding affecting the adjustment of the debtor-creditor relationship; it is, therefore, a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A)(B)(C)(E)(G)(M) and (O). The claims and causes of action in the State Court Action have a clear and direct impact on the interests and property of the Debtor's estate under 11 U.S.C. § 541.
- 17. Upon removal of the State Court Action, the Trustee consents to the entry of final orders or judgment by the bankruptcy judge in the bankruptcy court.

#### IV. Parties and Notice

- 18. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a), Federal Bankruptcy Rule 9027(b), and Local Rule 9027-1, all adverse parties are being provided with a copy of this Notice of Removal and a copy of this Notice of Removal is being filed with the clerk of the 261<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas.
- 19. The names and addresses of the parties and counsel in the State Court Action, who have or will be served with this Notice of Removal are as follows:

COUNSELKASTER LYNCH FARRAR & BALL LLPLAWSON & MOSHENBERG, PLLCFORMark D. BankstonAvi MoshenbergPLAINTIFFSWillim R. Ogden801 Travis St., Suite 2101 #381117 HerkimerHouston, Texas 77002

Houston, Texas 77008

| COUNSEL           | THE REYNAL LAW FIRM PC                  | MARTIN DISIERE JEFFERSON & WISDOM |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| FOR               | Federico Andino Reynal                  | Christopher W. Martin             |
| <b>DEFENDANTS</b> | 917 Franklin St., Fl. 6                 | John Andrew Laboon                |
|                   | Houston, Texas 77002                    | 808 Travis St. Suite 1100         |
|                   |   | Houston, Texas 77002              |
|                   | CROWE & DUNLEVY PC                      |                                   |
|                   | Vickie L. Driver                        |                                   |
|                   | 2525 McKinnon St. Suite 425             |                                   |
|                   | Dallas, Tx 75201                        |                                   |
| GARNISHEE         | CADENCE BANK                            |                                   |
|                   | c/o Registered Agent CT Corporation     |                                   |
|                   | System                                  |                                   |
|                   | 1999 Bryan St. Suite 900, Dallas, Texas |                                   |
|                   | 75201                                   |                                   |

### V. <u>Process and Pleadings</u>

- 20. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(1) and Local Bankruptcy Rule 9027-1(b), true and correct copies of all process and pleadings filed in the State Court Action (as set forth in the attached Exhibit "1") will be filed upon removal.
- 21. In the State Court Action, all original parties have been served with summons. It is unclear whether Cadence Bank (the intended garnishee) has been served with a copy of Plaintiffs' Application for Writ of Garnishment.
- 22. In accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9027(c), the Debtor will promptly file a notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal in the State Court Action.

WHEREFORE, the Debtor notifies the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, that the State Court Action is hereby removed in its entirety to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a) and Bankruptcy Rule 9027.

Dated: June 24, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Erin E. Jones</u> Erin Elizabeth Jones Texas Bar No. 24032478

**JONES MURRAY LLP** 602 Sawyer, Suite 400

Houston, TX 77007 Telephone: 832-529-1999 Email: erin@jonesmurray.com

#### AND

By: /s/ Joshua W. Wolfshohl
Joshua W. Wolfshohl
State Bar No. 24038592
Porter Hedges LLP
1000 Main Street, 36th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 226-6000
(713) 228-1331 (fax)

COUNSEL FOR CHRISTOPHER R. MURRAY, TRUSTEE

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on June 24, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice was served via ECF/PACER to all parties registered to receive such service and via first class mail to the following:

| COUNSEL            | KASTER LYNCH FARRAR & BALL LLP          | LAWSON & MOSHENBERG, PLLC         |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| FOR                | Mark D. Bankston                        | Avi Moshenberg                    |
| <b>PLAINTIFFS</b>  | Willim R. Ogden                         | 801 Travis St., Suite 2101 #38    |
|                    | 1117 Herkimer                           | Houston, Texas 77002              |
|                    | Houston, Texas 77008                    |                                   |
|                    |   |                                   |
| COUNSEL            | THE REYNAL LAW FIRM PC                  | Martin Disiere Jefferson & Wisdom |
| FOR                | Federico Andino Reynal                  | Christopher W. Martin             |
| <b>D</b> EFENDANTS | 917 Franklin St., Fl. 6                 | John Andrew Laboon                |
|                    | Houston, Texas 77002                    | 808 Travis St. Suite 1100         |
|                    |   | Houston, Texas 77002              |
|                    | CROWE & DUNLEVY PC                      |                                   |
|                    | Vickie L. Driver                        |                                   |
|                    | 2525 McKinnon St. Suite 425             |                                   |
|                    | Dallas, Tx 75201                        |                                   |
| GARNISHEE          | CADENCE BANK                            |                                   |
|                    | c/o Registered Agent CT Corporation     |                                   |
|                    | System                                  |                                   |
|                    | 1999 Bryan St. Suite 900, Dallas, Texas |                                   |
|                    | 75201                                   |                                   |
|                    |   |                                   |

/s/ Erin E. Jones



#### **261st District Court**

# **Case Summary**

## Case No. D-1-GN-18-001835

**HESLIN V JONES** 

§ § Location: 261st District Court

Filed on: **04/16/2018** 

## **Case Information**

Case Type: Defamation

Case Status: **01/12/2023** Closed

#### **Statistical Closures**

04/18/2022 Transfer - CV 01/12/2023 Final Judgment - CV

# **Assignment Information**

# **Current Case Assignment**

Case Number D-1-GN-18-001835 Court 261st District Court

Date Assigned 04/16/2018

# **Party Information**

Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

Bankston, Mark DuQuesnay

Retained

Moshenberg, Avishay

Retained

Akers, Cordt Cullen

Retained

**Ball**, Wesley Todd

Retained

SWAFFORD, ROBERT RALPH

Retained

LEWIS, SCARLETT Bankston, Mark DuQuesnay

Retained

Akers, Cordt Cullen

Retained

Defendant FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS LLC REYNAL, FEDERICO ANDINO

Retained

Martin, Christopher W.

Retained

Laboon, John Andrew

Retained

JONES, ALEX E REYNAL, FEDERICO ANDINO

Retained

Martin, Christopher W.

Retained

Laboon, John Andrew

Retained

Driver, Vickie L

Retained

## **Case Events**

04/16/2018 ASM:GN CIVIL PETITION

Event Code: 600 Adjmt Amount: 307.00

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

04/16/2018

ORIGINAL PETITION/APPLICATION

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOUSRE Event Code: 5050

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

04/16/2018 NEW:ORIGINAL PETITION/APPL (OCA)

Event Code: 4500

04/23/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER REQUESTING ISSUANCE (CITATION) Event Code: 5414

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

04/27/2018 ASM:CITATION ISSUE

Event Code: 702 Adjmt Amount: 32.00

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

06/18/2018 ORIGINAL ANSWER/WAIVER

DEFENDANTS' ORIGINAL ANSWER Event Code: 5150

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

06/27/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

VACATION LETTER Event Code: 5414

06/28/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

VACATION LETTER Event Code: 5414

06/29/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

VACATION LETTER Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

06/29/2018 NTC:ATTORNEY/COUNSEL

SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL Event Code: 5550

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

07/13/2018 AMENDED/SUPPLEMENTED ANSWER

DEFENDANTS' FIRST AMENDED ANSWER Event Code: 5152

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

07/13/2018

**MOTION** 

DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZENS PARTI CIPATION ACT

Event Code: 5265

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

07/19/2018 NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING Event Code: 5554

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

07/23/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER FROM: MARK C. ENOCH Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/10/2018 ASSIGNMENT BY PRESIDING JUDGE

ASSIGNMENT BY PRESIDING JUDGE Event Code: 5423

08/16/2018

LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER FROM SCOTT H JENKINS JUDGE 53RD DISTRICT COURT TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Event Code: 5414

08/17/2018

**MOTION** 

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS FOR INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

Event Code: 5265

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

08/17/2018

**MOTION** 

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY IN AID OF PLAINTI FF'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' TCPA MOTION Event Code: 5265

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

08/21/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER FROM MARK C. ENOCH Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/23/2018

**RESPONSE** 

DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY Event Code: 5153

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/27/2018

**RESPONSE** 

PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZENS PARTICIPATION ACT Event Code: 5153

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

08/27/2018

**AFFIDAVIT** 

SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO D ISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ACT Event Code: 5401

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/27/2018

AMENDED/SUPPLEMENTED ANSWER

DEFENDANTS' FIRST AMENDED RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY AND DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SANCTIONS Event

Code: 5152

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/28/2018

!AFFIDAVIT

SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVITS IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZENS PARTICIPATION ACT Event Code: 5482

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/28/2018

!AFFIDAVIT

SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' FIRST AMEND ED RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AND MOTION F OR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY AND DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SANCTIONS Event Code: 5482

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/29/2018

**OBJECTIONS** 

DEFENDANTS' OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFF'S EVIDENCE SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CI TIZENS PARTICIPATION ACT

Event Code: 5156

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/29/2018

OTHER/NOTICE

DEFENDANTS' FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZENS

 $PARTICIPATION\,ACT\,Event\,Code:\,5415$ 

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/29/2018

**AFFIDAVIT** 

AUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' FIRST AMEND ED RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AND MOTION F OR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY AND DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SANCTIONS Event Code: 5401

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/29/2018 AMENDED/SUPPLEMENTED ANSWER

DEFENDANTS' SECOND AMENDED ANSWER Event Code: 5152

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/30/2018

**MOTION** 

DEFENDANTS' SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER THE TEXAS CITIZENS PARTICIPATION ACT Event Code: 5265

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/30/2018

**AFFIDAVIT** 

SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' FIRST AMENDED RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS AND MOTION FOR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY AND DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SANCTIONS Event Code: 5401

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/30/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

08/30/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER/EMAIL/CORR Event Code: 5414

08/31/2018

**ORDER** 

ORDER ON PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR EXPEDITED DISCOVERY IN AID O F PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' TCPA MOTION Event Code: 8225

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

09/11/2018

OTHER/NOTICE

DEFENDANTS' REQUEST FOR RULINGS ON TIMELY FILED OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFF'S

EVIDENCE Event Code: 5415

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

09/14/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER FROM MARK C. ENOCH Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

09/25/2018

OTHER/NOTICE

DEFENDANTS' SECOND RENEWED REQUEST FOR RULINGS ON TIMELY FILED

OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFF'S EVIDENCE Event Code: 5415

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

09/28/2018

**MOTION** 

DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE/CONFIDENTIALITY ORDER Event Code: 5265

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/01/2018 MTN:MODIFY, REDUCE, ENFO, CONTE

PLAINTIFF?S MOTION FOR CONTEMPT UNDER RULE 215 Event Code: 5261

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

10/02/2018 NOTICE OF APPEAL

DF-1 NOTICE OF APPEAL Event Code: 5553

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/02/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER TO JUDGE JENKINS Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/03/2018 ASM:CV MOTION FOR CONTEMPT

Event Code: 635 Adjmt Amount: 80.00

Party: Plaintiff HESLIN, NEIL

10/03/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER FROM 3RD COA Event Code: 5414

10/10/2018 DESIGNATION CLRKS/REPORTR REC

DF-1 DESIGNATION FOR COURT REPORTER'S RECORD Event Code: 5409

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/10/2018 DESIGNATION CLRKS/REPORTR REC

DF-1 DESIGNATION FOR CLERK'S RECORD Event Code: 5409

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/10/2018 ASM:CLERKS RECORD

Event Code: 939 Adjmt Amount: 3192.00

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/10/2018

MSF:BILL OF COST FOR CLERK REC

Form Number B03-2686 Issued by HAMILTON LYNDA SELINA (102) MSF:BILL OF COST FOR C

Event Code: 102

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

10/11/2018 CLERKS RECORD TRANSMITTAL

FILED CLERK'S RECORD BY 3RE COA / HAND DELIVERED Event Code: 5606

10/11/2018

CLERKS RECORD TRANSMITTAL

FILED BY 3RD COA EXHIBITS TO BE INCLUDED WITH CLERK'S RECORD /// HAND

DELIVERED Event Code: 5606

10/15/2018 LETTER/EMAIL/CORR

LETTER TO COURT OPERATIONS OFFICER Event Code: 5414

Party: Defendant JONES, ALEX E

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# Hearings

04/25/2022 CANCELED Jury Trial (9:01 AM)

Passed by Court

10/20/2022 CANCELED **Setting Date** (9:00 AM)

Passed by Court